

LaDasia at Schenectady County Community College Health Care Opportunities

LaDasia came to the HPOG partner, the Albany Community Action Partnership (ACAP), a young single mother with two sons under the age of two. She wanted to find training that would give her an opportunity to stop relying on TANF public assistance and become financially independent. As a compassionate individual, she believed that, if given the chance to take the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) training, she would provide the same great care to her clients that she had given her own children.

Throughout her training LaDasia faced various situations that almost derailed her success. Luckily she received encouragement and guidance from ACAP staff members and her nurse instructor. During the training, LaDasia's mother and only support system was arrested and sent to jail. She temporarily lost her public assistance benefits and almost became hopeless. She also faced transportation issues getting her children to daycare and then herself to the clinical site. ACAP staff worked to decrease these barriers by providing transportation, assistance, and referrals.

After successfully completing training, LaDasia worked with ACAP staff to obtain her driver's license and secured full-time employment. She has now reached her six-month job retention milestone, but it has not come easy. Two months ago her two-year-old was diagnosed with autism. She was working full time while accommodating her son's need for therapy three hours a day, three times a week. She has made adjustments but perseveres through hard work. She has not yielded to the temptation to quit, even though life is tough. She appreciates the support she receives through the HPOG program and has begun to speak with current students about her experiences and the opportunities the program has given her.